

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the thermoplastic workpieces are textiles.

29. A method according to claim 9, wherein the workpieces are thermoplastic films.

REMARKS

Claims 7-11, 13-17 and 20-21 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. New dependent claims 22-29 have been added. Claims 1-29 are in the case.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current preliminary amendment. The attachment is captioned "Version With Markings To Show Changes Made."

Respectfully submitted,



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March 29, 2001

(V-80)

VERSION WITH MARKING TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims have been amended as follows:

7 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the radiation absorbing material is exposed to radiation prior to positioning the workpieces together.

8 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the radiation absorbing material is exposed to radiation through one of the workpieces.

9 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the workpieces are made of plastics.

10 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the radiation absorbing material is a radiation absorbing dye.

11 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the lower limit of the absorption band is above 700nm.

13 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1~~

to 11, wherein the absorption band defines the range 820-860nm.

14 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the absorption band lies in the infrared range.

15 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the absorption band does not include the range 400-700nm.

16 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the radiation is in the infrared range.

17 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the wavelength of the incident radiation lies in the range 700-2500nm.

20 (amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~, wherein the radiation is a laser beam.

21 (amended). A pair of workpieces which have been welded by a method according to claim 1 ~~any of the preceding claims~~.

The following new claims have been added:

22. A method according to claim 1, wherein the workpieces comprise fabrics.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the fabrics are nylon-based fabrics.

24. A method according to claim 22, wherein the fabrics are polyurethane coated.

25. A method according to claim 22, wherein the fabrics comprise polyamide/polytetrafluoroethylene laminated fabrics.

26. A method according to claim 1, wherein the workpieces comprise thin films such as polyester or PEEK.

27. A method according to claim 9, wherein the workpieces are made of thermoplastic.

28. A method according to claim 27, wherein the thermoplastic workpieces are textiles.

29. A method according to claim 9, wherein the workpieces are thermoplastic films.

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